

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Page 44,

Line 2, change "The present invention provides
a" to --A--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A magnetooptical recording medium
adapted to be heated from a room temperature range to a
medium temperature range above the room temperature range and
to a high temperature range above the medium temperature
range, said medium comprising:

a first magnetic layer;

an intermediate magnetic layer; and

a second magnetic layer having a perpendicular
magnetization,

wherein said intermediate layer is
between said first and second magnetic layers,

wherein said intermediate magnetic layer
has a Curie temperature higher than the room temperature
range, lower than the Curie temperature of said first and
second magnetic layers, and in the high temperature range,

wherein said first magnetic layer has
[which is] an in-plane magnetization [film] at the room
temperature range, [and raised temperatures, is changed into]
changes to a perpendicular magnetization [film] at the medium

temperature range, [temperatures] and changes to an in-plane magnetization in the high temperature range when the temperature of said intermediate layer reaches its Curie temperature [; and a second magnetic layer which is composed of a perpendicular magnetization film].

2. (Amended) A magnetooptical recording medium according to Claim 1, wherein each of the first and second magnetic [layer] layers consists of a rare [rear]-earth and iron group amorphous alloy.

6. (Amended) A magnetooptical recording medium [according to Claim 4,] adapted to be heated from a room temperature range to a medium temperature range above the room temperature range and to a high temperature range above the medium temperature range, said medium comprising:

a first magnetic layer;

a second magnetic layer having a perpendicular magnetization; and

a third magnetic layer, wherein the third magnetic layer is interposed between said first and second magnetic layers, and has a Curie temperature lower than those of said first and second magnetic layers, and has an in-plane magnetization [film and changes to a perpendicular magnetization film at raised temperatures] at the room

temperature range and changes to a perpendicular magnetization at the medium temperature range.

2. (Amended) A method of reproducing, with a laser beam, information recorded on a magneto-optical recording medium comprising a first magnetic layer, a second magnetic layer having a perpendicular magnetization, and an intermediate layer therebetween having a Curie temperature higher than a room temperature range, lower than the Curie temperature of the first and second magnetic layers, and in a high temperature range, the first magnetic layer having [which is] an in-plane magnetization [film] at the room temperature range, [and high temperatures, and changed into] changing to a perpendicular magnetization [film] at [intermediate temperatures] a medium temperature range higher than the room temperature range and changing back to an in-plane magnetization at or above the Curie temperature of the intermediate layer in the high temperature range higher than the medium temperature range, [and a second magnetic layer which is composed of a perpendicular magnetization film,] said method comprising the steps of:

projecting a laser beam onto the magneto-optical recording medium from [the] a side of the first magnetic layer;

heating the first magnetic layer with the laser beam so that the first magnetic layer has a portion in

the room temperature range having in-plane magnetization and a portion in the medium temperature range having a perpendicular magnetization;

heating a portion of the intermediate layer at least to its Curie temperature so that a corresponding portion of the first magnetic layer in the high temperature range changes to an in-plane magnetization [changing high-temperature and low-temperature regions within a portion of the first magnetic layer which is irradiated with the laser beam, into an in-plane magnetization film, and a medium-temperature region into a perpendicular magnetization film];

transferring information recorded in the second magnetic layer to the first magnetic layer by exchange coupling through the intermediate layer perpendicular magnetization of the first magnetic layer and magnetization of the second magnetic layer; and

reproducing the recorded information based on the magneto-optic effect of the light reflected from the magneto-optical recording medium.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 remain pending in the application.
Claims 1, 6, and 7 are the independent claims and Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 have been amended herein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and